Weekly Spotlight

According to the recently published National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement report from the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE), there was a notable increase in Pitzer students’ voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election in contrast to the 2016 election.

Students’ voting rates increased from 56.9 percent to 79.7 percent, well above the national average of 66 percent.

IDHE Director Nancy Thomas “attribute[s] this high level of participation to many factors, including student activism on issues such as racial injustice, global climate change, and voter suppression, as well as increased efforts by educators to reach students and connect them to the issues and to voting resources.”

Pitzer student voting rates earned us a platinum seal award (awarded to only 46 other colleges) from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, an initiative of Civic Nation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating equitable change.

According to Managing Director of the CEC, Tricia Morgan, this good news about Pitzer’s voter turnout reminds us that while voting and developing policy won’t solve all issues, civic engagement is a powerful tool at our disposal.

Volunteers Needed

Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Competition

Every year, Pitzer works with Project Pericles to promote civic engagement within higher education through a letter-writing project: Debating for Democracy (D4D). Project Pericles, one of the Community Engagement Center’s community partners, is a vibrant consortium of colleges and universities that promotes civic
engagement within higher education. D4D is an annual competition where students research, develop, and advocate their opinions and positions on current public policy issues.

Pitzer students will produce a co-written (two Pitzer/non-senior students minimum), two page letter to a federal or state elected official advocating for a legislative response to a current issue. The primary goal of D4D is to inspire and encourage all participants to become successful and resourceful advocates in their community. Out of the thirty Periclean institutions, five winning teams will be selected to receive $500 towards mobilizing on their issue back at their home college the following year.

Interested in participating? Learn more about this competition by reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP) here and our rubric based on the RFP to guide letter writing here. Letters are due in March 2022 but we recommend getting started as soon as possible – winter break would be a great time to start! You can view previous winning letters here as well as a helpful infographic we have created here. TPP will host a letter-writing workshop later this month to assist students interested in participating. If you need more information, please reach out to aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu.

November Events

**Tomorrow, November 30 @ 1:20pm: Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Workshop**

**Virtual Event**

Join The People’s Pitzer for a Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Workshop.

Every year, Pitzer works with Project Pericles to promote civic engagement within higher education through a letter-writing project: [Debating for Democracy (D4D)](https://projectpericles.org/debating-for-democracy). D4D is an annual competition where students research, develop, and advocate their opinions and positions on current public policy issues. Pitzer students will produce a co-written (two Pitzer/non-senior students minimum), two page letter to a federal or state elected official advocating for a legislative response to a current issue. The primary goal of D4D is to inspire and encourage all participants to become successful and resourceful advocates in their community. Out of the thirty Periclean institutions, five winning teams will be selected to receive $500 towards mobilizing on their issue back at their home college the following year. Attend this workshop to learn more about writing a winning letter!
Did you miss Preparing for Civil Service in California: Workshop with Dana Nothnagel on November 18th? Watch the recording here. The workshop featured Dana Nothnagel (PZ ‘19), Program Coordinator for the California Grants Portal, a new website focused on making over $20 billion in State funding opportunities accessible to all Californians. Dana helped Claremont students understand the impacts they can have on the lives of 40 million Californians through a career in California’s capital.

Save the Date

TPP events will conclude for the semester at the end of November. Thank you so much to all those who attended. Please let us know if you have ideas for future events or would like to get involved with TPP over winter break by contacting TPP student coordinator aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu or CEC Managing Director tricia_morgan@pitzer.edu. Check our website for additional information and updates.

Connect with Us

Want to hear more from The People’s Pitzer? Join our email list here. Want to get involved in the Community Engagement Center in other ways? Fill out our volunteer interest form here.

Follow our Instagram and Facebook (@ThePeoplesPitzer) for updates, and be sure to check out our website to see all our resources. Keep an eye out for future newsletters as well!

Further questions? Comments? Concerns? For more information about The People’s Pitzer, as well as how to get involved in our team, contact Alaina Neuburger at aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu.